

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and re-examination are hereby requested.

The claims have been provisionally rejected for obviousness double patenting. This issued will be addressed when allowable subject matter is found.

The claims stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Martin et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,214,768) in view of Gaskins (U. S. Patent No. 5,903,911).

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Perhaps it might be helpful to review features of Applicants invention. Applicant has the user data pass between the host computer and disk drives through the data transfer section while messages, which control the data passage, flows between the directors through a separate independently operable messaging network. Thus, while the user data passes through the data transfer section the messages used to control the user data flow pass between the directors through a message network. Neither Martin et al. nor Gaskins et al describe or suggest an system where data passes though a data transfer section while messages used to control the data flow pass BETWEEN the directors THROUGH a messaging network.

The cache controller 208 of Gaskins does not pass messages BETWEEN the directors THROUGH it. Further, there is nothing in Gaskins which suggest modifying Martin so that data passes though a data transfer section while messages used to control the data flow pass BETWEEN the directors THROUGH a messaging network.

In short, nothing in either Martin or Gaskins taken either singly or in combination recognizes or suggests having user data pass thorough a data transfer network while messages used to control such data flow pass between the directors through a message network.

Next, Claim 1 points out that the system includes:

a message network, operative independently of the data transfer section, coupled to the pair of output/input ports of each one of the directors boards of the plurality of first director boards and to the pair of output/input ports of each one of the directors boards of the plurality of second director boards; and

(e) wherein the first and second directors control data transfer between the first directors and the second directors in response to messages passing between the first directors and the second directors through the message network to facilitate data transfer between first directors and the second directors with such data passing through the cache memory in the data transfer section. (emphasis added).

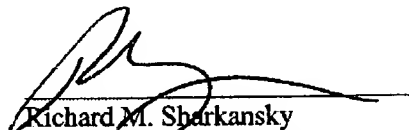
Applicant points out that if the Examiner considers 206, which, as noted above, is a memory controller that does not pass between the directors through it, where is there any suggestion as to how or why one can have the memory controller 206 be coupled to the pair of output/input ports of each one of the directors boards of the plurality of first director boards and to the pair of output/input ports of each one of the directors boards of the plurality of second director boards; as in claim 1. As noted above, element 206 of Gaskins is NOT A NETWORK through which messages pass between directors nor is there any suggestion to have it be coupled to the pair of output/input ports of each one of the directors boards of the plurality of first director boards and to the pair of output/input ports of each one of the directors boards of the plurality of second director boards;

In the event any additional fee is required, please charge such amount to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 05-0889.

Respectfully submitted,

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Richard M. Sharkansky  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Reg. No.: 25,800

P. O. Box 557

Mashpee, MA 02649

Telephone: (508) 477-4311

Facsimile: (508) 477-7234